

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-2  
NOVEMBER 27, 2002***

***Operations and Services***

***MARINE OBSERVATION PROGRAM***

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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**OPR:** W/OPS5 (P. Moersdorf)  
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**Certified by:** W/OPS (J. McNulty)

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***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:*** This directive supercedes WSOM Chapter B-30, Issuance 92-04, dated August 26, 1992.

1. Information on the state of the atmosphere, including the land and ocean environments, is an essential element of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) mission. To meet this mission the NWS requires marine observations, both atmospheric and oceanographic, to provide quality advisories, warnings, forecasts, and forecast verification. This directive governs activities to provide uninterrupted marine observations and establishes NWS marine observing policy.
2. The NWS will provide timely, accurate, and relevant marine weather support to the NWS mission, its customers, and other Government agencies, as required.
3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
  - 3.1 NWS Headquarters (WSH) provides guidance and direction to this policy by developing requirements for operational marine observing programs.
  - 3.2 The Director, Office of Operational Systems (W/OPS), is responsible for the implementation of this policy and will issue Procedural Directives as required to effectively implement this policy.
  - 3.3 Regional headquarters implement this policy as it relates to the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) and Marine Reporting Stations (MARS) programs.
  - 3.4 The National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) provides guidance and direction, and implements this policy. To carry out this responsibility, NDBC:
    - a. Responds to WSH marine observation requirements.
    - b. Manages the NWS operational marine observing program.

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- c. Evaluates national performance for the marine observation program.
- d. Coordinates and negotiates with NWS offices, other Government agencies, and private organizations on all national and international matters pertaining to marine observations.
- e. Sets standards and procedures for U. S. operational marine observing programs.
- f. Procures, tests and deploys instruments for nationally supported programs.
- g. Prepares and distributes documentation and forms for use in marine observing programs.
- h. Documents agreements on matters pertaining to marine observing.
- i. Performs quality control of marine observations.
- j. Disseminates marine observations as directed.
- k. Arranges for archiving of marine observations.

4. The NWS measures the effectiveness of the marine observing program policy using the following mission-critical performance measure: delivery of accurate marine observation data to the NWS and its customers. The overall goal of this policy is to provide quality-controlled real-time marine observations to the NWS and its customers.

5. This policy directive is supported by the references and glossary or terms listed in Attachment 1.

<u>Signed by John E. Jones, Jr., for</u>	<u>11/13/2002</u>
John J. Kelly, Jr.	Date
Assistant Administrator	
for Weather Services	

Attachment 1

REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

*Instructions*

*10-201 Voluntary Observing Ship Program*

*10-202 Marine Reporting Stations*

